



# LARC



Volume 48, Number 3

March 2008

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### REGULAR MEETING

Thursday March 6, 2008 - 7 PM  
Red Cross Building - 101 N. Pat St.

VE Testing @ 6:00 PM - Door Prizes

### HAMFEST SCHEDULE

AARA Hamfest—March 21 & 22, 2008

#### Each Monday

AARA Net 146.820 - 600—7:00PM

Acadia Parish ARES Net—8:00 PM

147.240 pl 127.3 Crowley, LA

#### Each Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

ARES Net 145.370 - 600 PL 103.5

YL/XYL / Filly Net 146.820 - 600

#### Each Wednesday

Lunch Bunch 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Golden Corral - Amb. Caffery

Check 146.820 - repeater for info

Vermillion Parish ARES Net 8:00 PM

147.060 +600

#### 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, 1:00 p.m.

HEAL Net 146.820 - 600

### AARA OFFICERS 2008-2009

President - Charlie Morrison KI5XP

ki5xp@w5ddl.org

Vice Pres - Dick Melcher WA6MDI

Secretary - Randy Castille N5MLJ

Treasurer - Joy Breaux N5YCS

#### BOARD MEMBERS

John Martin KA5BSE

Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF

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Newsletter Editor

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The **LARC** is published monthly by the:  
**Acadiana Amateur Radio Association**

P. O. Box 51174

Lafayette, Louisiana 70505-1174

Regular meetings 1st Thursday of  
each month at 7:00 p.m. at the  
American Red Cross Building  
101 North Pat Street Scott, LA

## President's Message

March is finally here, that means that its almost time for the hamfest Unfortunately due to issues beyond our control we've had to move the hamfest back a week from its normal time, but we're hoping that our turnout is as great as ever. There wont be a Fais-Do-Do, but we will have the annual Friday Night Crawfish boil. Roland asks that anyone wishing to eat crawfish, had best get their pre-registration in ASAP. This assists him on guesstimating the total lot for purchase! Please, get your pre-registrations in soon!

I had the opportunity to operate this past month at the station of W8JI with a bunch of friends from the Atlanta area. We participated in the CQ WPX RTTY contest, and Tom's station is probably one of the premier locations to work from. His low band antenna systems are probably the best in the world, as Tom is known for his 160m prowess. He's also quite the handyman, as Tom is the major force in the design team for Ameritron's amplifiers and DX Engineering's antennas switching systems. He's always present at the major hamfests presenting his wares. Nothing like having an amplifier go out in the middle of the contest and having the person who designed and built the thing do a spot repair in 15 minutes!

That brings me to one of my favorite parts of ham radio, contesting. Contesting is also known as Radio Sport, and as any of you who are members of ARRL know, QST has recently begun to increase its coverage of Radio Sport within the pages of its monthly magazine. These sections not only cover the results of contests that occur weekly, but also offer tips and techniques so that anyone can join in the fun. You don't have to be a "big-gun" to participate in contests. Each one is unique and each one has its own set of rules. Some cater to the big gun stations, some cater to the QRP stations.

There are categories for multi mono band yagi's and categories for wire only antennas. So there's always room for more stations to participate.

Feel free to ask at any meetings or via email or on the radio, I'd love to help anyone get more involved in contesting, its competitive fun!

73 for now!

Charlie

KI5XP

## Statement by Mickey Cox K5MC - Candidate for Delta Division Director

Posted on QRZ.COM on February 9, 2008

I believe the ARRL needs new leadership if we truly want it to be the "National Association of Amateur Radio" in the future. In recent years the ARRL Board of Directors has shown poor judgment in a number of ways. Perhaps the most obvious example is the "regulation by bandwidth" proposal (RM-11306) submitted by the League to the FCC. A large majority of the comments submitted by hams to the FCC on RM-11306 were negative; the League then tried to salvage part of RM-11306 by submitting an ex-parte revision which included an "erratum" that supposedly conveyed the ARRL's true desires. Finally, in the face of massive opposition, the ARRL asked the FCC to withdraw RM-11306 from further consideration.

I have decided to run for Delta Division Director this year. Fred AA7BQ has given me permission to post my campaign platform on QRZ.COM. Although the election ballots will not be mailed to the ARRL members in the Delta Division (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee) until late September, I would like to hear now from both Delta Division members and any other amateur radio operators who have constructive ideas on how we can improve the ARRL. Depending upon the suggestions I receive here and by other means (emails, discussions at hamfests, etc.), I will "fine tune" my platform in the coming months.

(continued on page 5 column 1)

## New Ham Radio Classes Scheduled

The Children's Museum of Acadiana, in conjunction with the Acadiana Amateur Radio Association, announces a spring ham radio licensing course. The course offers individuals, ages 10 and up, instruction and practice designed to enable them to earn a Technician-level license in ham radio.

This license will allow them two-way communication privileges in larger segments of the radio frequency spectrum than are available through unlicensed technologies such as CB radio and cellular phones.

The instructors welcome grandparents, parents, and children to enroll in the course and earn their technician's license together. The course will begin with an orientation session Thursday, March 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Class meetings will resume Thursday, March 27, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., continuing each Thursday through May 8, with the exception of April 24 when class will not meet in deference to Festival International. In addition to the one-time \$5.00 course fee, each student will purchase a \$25.00 manual and pay a \$14.00 fee for testing and license for a total of \$44.00.

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## Severe Storm Takes Toll on Hams

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, a severe line of thunderstorms came through the Acadiana area and created havoc on a couple of our amateur radio operators.

First, around 1:00 pm, Burt Beyt K5ZR of St. Martin Parish, lost 2 of his three 75 foot towers when an apparent tornado ripped through his area, putting one on his roof creating some damage. The XYL had a bridge game going on at the time, no one hurt, after it was all over and done they continued their game.

Bruce Casey, KB5WNU of Jackson, LA lost all of his VHF and UHF directional antennas. Luckily, the 2 meter and 6 meter antennas which were under construction were laying on the ground and not damaged. No damage to the QTH reported.

As this storm approached Lafayette Parish, a SkyWarn Net on the 145.370 repeater was activated by Lafayette Parish EC Ed Roy WA5TNK. Reports of high winds and some hail and heavy rain, thunder and lightning reported in some areas. No damage from the Lafayette Parish area reported on the net. Those that checked in on the net were: Ed WA5TNK, Dane KE5HSX, Arnold KE5JXC, Greg AD5HA, and Herman KN5GRK.

Herman KN5GRK—Assistant EC Lafayette Parish

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## HEAL NET

Be sure to check in on the HEAL NET every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month at 1:00 PM local time on the 146.820 repeater in Lafayette. Larry KE5KJD called the net for February and will appreciate anyone wising to help as NCS.

### February HEAL Net Report

DATE:	Medical Personnel	Guest	Medical Facilities	Time / Traffic
2/01/08	3	11	3	22 min/0
2/15/08	3	7	3	17 min/0

## 48th Acadiana Hamfest 2008

### ARRL State Convention

Sponsored by: Acadiana Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

**March 21 & 22, 2008**

**Friday & Saturday**

Rayne Civic Center, Rayne, LA

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Flea market & dealer tables available. RV space with full hookups.

**Friday 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM**—Crawfish Boil at 6:00 PM.

**Saturday 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM**  
8:30 AM—DXCC Card Checking

8:45 AM—VE Testing

9:00 AM—AMSAT Forum

10:00 AM—ARRL Forum

11:00 AM—Fox Hunt

1:00 PM—Grand Prize Drawing

**1<sup>st</sup> Grand Prize**—Icom 7000 HF Mobile

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grand Prize**—Icom 2200H 2 Meter Mobile

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grand Prize**—Icom V8 Sport 2 Meter HT

Need not be present for the Grand Prize drawings.

Door prizes awarded throughout the day. Must be present for door prize drawing.

**Refreshments:** Rayne High School Scholarship Fund Group will be serving Gumbo Friday and coffee, biscuits, sweet rolls, gumbo, soft drinks, sandwiches, etc. on Saturday all day.

Check out our website for more details and updates at:

<http://www.w5ddl.org/hamfest/>

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## Upcoming Notable AARA Events

**March 13**—New ham class orientation. See above article.

**March 21-22**—AARA Hamfest Rayne, Louisiana

**June 28 & 29**—Field Day 2008

More to follow in later issues for the LARC.

## Mardi Gras Event

A few of our “energetic” members decided to take in Mardi Gras this year by having our AMOS Van in action. Major John Queener KD5OJT of the Lafayette Salvation Army gave us permission to set up on the Thrift Store parking lot on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Chestnut which put our van about 30 feet from the parade route.

John Martin KA5BSE and I went down and marked off our area Monday morning around 10:00AM. Then around 3:00 PM, John and wife Maureena KB5SMX brought the AMOS van and set it up for the 6:00 PM “Queens Parade”. During this time, Jim Bookter N5NVP operated CW and made a few contacts along with John KA5BSE as shown in this picture. After the parade, John brought the van back to his QTH for the night.

The van was returned to the parade route the next morning around 8:00 AM Mardi Gras Day (February 5<sup>th</sup>). The “Kings Parade” started at 10:00 AM with the “Mardi Gras Association Parade” at 1:00 PM followed directly by the “Independent Parade”. During this time “our gang” was busy fighting for all the “throws” from the floats. Here are a few shots of “our gang”.



Nick Pugh K5QXJ—Chairperson  
for the Mardi Gras Event



Larry KE5KJF & Nick K5QXJ



Mike KE5AWZ, John KA5BSE &  
Nick K5QXJ



Maureena KB5SMX, John KA5BSE  
& Sandy KE5KJF



Karen KE5RPI

We all had a “GREAT” time at this year’s Mardi Gras. The weather was one of our biggest worries, but Mother Nature favored us with pleasant WX during the time we celebrating. We have received permission from the Salvation Army to come back next year. Our appreciation goes out to John and Maureena for doing the most work in getting the van to and from the scene. Some of our club members that appeared and not in the above pictures are: Archie KE5RPM, Art K5FNQ (riding on one of the floats) and Herman KN5GRK (operating the camera for the above pictures).

I have gathered up a few pictures from other photographers and will try to set up a photo gallery on our website. A “Mardi Gras QSL Card” is now available for our “Mardi Gras” contacts.



## FYI

Louisiana will be getting a new Section Manager on April 1. Gary Stratton, K5GLS, of Shreveport, the Louisiana Section Emergency Coordinator for the last three years, will be taking the reins from Mickey Cox, K5MC. Cox, who has served as Section Manager for the past eight years, decided not to run for another term of office. Jim Coleman AI5B will replace Gary as Louisiana SEC. Jim had been serving as the Southeast LA DEC and we know he will do a great job at his new position. Dick Rogers WB5TUG has been appointed Assistant DEC for Southwest Louisiana and Ken Standard AD5XJ is a new Technical Specialist.

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The Acadia Parish ARES group has a new 2 meter net up and running. It is held on Monday evening at 8:00 PM on the Crowley, LA 147.240 pl 127.3 repeater. Jim Bookter N5NVP will be NCS. All amateur radio operators are welcome to check in on this net.

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A “antenna party” was held at the QTH of SK Charlie Cross KC5FES on Saturday, March 1 at 2:00 PM. A 28 foot Rhon 25 tower with a 2 meter vertical and a 10 meter “buddy pole” rotatable dipole were dismantled and hauled away to find a new home. Mrs. Jo Ellen Cross had donated the tower to the AARA. She also expressed her thanks to all that helped in this operation. Those that took part were: John KA5BSE, Archie KE5RPM, Jim N5NVP, Ken KD5YWB, Niles KD5RKN and Herman KN5GRK.

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Virginia Bryant KE5DJA, ARRL Louisiana Public Information Officer, just returned from a extended trip in the Pacific including Hawaii, Australia, Japan, and her homeland in the Philippines. From what we gather, this was a very enjoyable trip and plans are for her to make another in a couple of years. We are all anxiously awaiting to hear about her trip and see many of the photos that she took along her voyage. Maybe she will tell us at the AARA Hamfest in Rayne, LA on March 21st and 22nd.

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The W5EXI 147.040 pl 103.5 repeater in Lafayette is now set up for EchoLink thanks to the efforts of WA6MDI, W5MLE, K5ARH, KI5XP and a few others that have had a hand in bringing this new mode to the our community. We are now waiting for EchoLink call sign validation.



3/03	ED	KC5MMG
3/09	SANDI	KE5LBZ
3/15	JOHN	KE5EEO
3/23	PAUL III	KE5KHP
3/25	JOSEPH	KE5LAX
3/30	HARRY	AC5PG
3/31	JOHN	N0JA
3/31	KEVIN	KE5LBD
4/01	ALBERT	KF5WP
4/01	ROGER	W5QEP
4/06	ARNOLD	KE5JXC



Some members failed to put their birthdays on their applications for renewal / membership application, this is why some may not be on the list.

## March 2008 Special Events & Contests

<b>March 7-9</b>	<b>W5NCA</b> —50th Year World's Largest Rattlesnake Roundup—Sweetwater, TX
<b>March 7-10</b>	<b>K6PV</b> —IOTA expedition to Santa Catalina Island, - Two Harbors, CA
<b>March 8</b>	<b>W4OT</b> —Commemorating America's First Wildlife Refuge—Vero Beach, FL.
<b>March 8</b>	<b>N16IS</b> —USS Midway CV-41 Museum Radio Room—Commemorating the Naval Aviator designation established in 1915.
<b>March 8 &amp; 9</b>	<b>N4B</b> —50th Anniversary of the “Atomic Bombing” of Mars Bluff, SC.
<b>March 22 &amp; 23</b>	<b>WB2JSM</b> —Hall of Science 35th Anniversary—Corona, NY
<b>March 29</b>	<b>W4BKM</b> —26th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival—Macon, GA

No Contests listed for the month of March 2008 on the ARRL Website.

These are just a few of the Special Events & Contests Check QST or ARRL Website for details and QSL information.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The AARA would like to welcome the following new members.

ED CONTI	KC5MMG
JAMES MAGIN	KE5SAD
LEE NELSON	KX5J
PETER TOTARO	W5HZA

If you hear these persons on the air, please give them your own “personal” welcome to our area.

**HELP KEEP AMATEUR  
RADIO ALIVE IN ACADIANA!**

(continued from page 1 column 2)

Among the changes I plan to pursue if I'm elected the new Delta Division Director are the following:

**1. ARRL members should have the choice of receiving QST, QEX, or NCJ.**

A number of League members have complained in recent years about the lack of technical content, contest reporting, etc., in QST. If the content in QST cannot be improved, then the members should have the choice of receiving QST, QEX, or NCJ. Other organizations (e.g., the National Rifle Association) offer similar options to their members and the ARRL should do likewise.

**2. The ARRL Board meetings should be open to a limited number of members, including those who write for non-League publications such as CQ Magazine and WorldRadio, as long as personnel issues are not under discussion.**

The ARRL Board needs to be more "open" in making League policy; one way to do that is to permit a limited number of League members to attend Board meetings (at their own expense) unless personnel matters are under discussion. These "guests" would be observers only. It is particularly important that members who write news articles for non-ARRL publications (e.g., CQ Magazine, WorldRadio) be permitted to attend Board meetings.

**3. An independent committee of technically qualified hams should carefully determine the advantages and disadvantages of "regulation by bandwidth" through spectrum efficiency studies, etc., to determine if a new proposal should be submitted to the FCC.**

The recent ARRL petition included essentially no documentation (engineering studies, band plans, or other data) that justified changing from the current scheme of regulation by mode to regulation by bandwidth. Before we ask the FCC to make such a dramatic change in the Part 97 rules, the ham community needs to be reasonably sure that such a change is warranted and that the Amateur Radio Service will be improved.

**4. The ARRL Board should achieve a reasonable degree of consensus within the ham community before submitting any future proposals to the FCC.**

The ARRL Board should post drafts of its proposals on the ARRL Web site for comments by hams, both members and non-members. All of the posted comments should be available for everyone to review. Some proposals may have to be revised several times over many months before a consensus is achieved. If a reasonable consensus cannot be achieved, then that proposal should not be submitted to the FCC. This policy will prevent future fiascos similar to RM-11306.

**5. All petitions released by the FCC for comment that concern the Amateur Radio Service should be made known to the ham community in a timely manner by the ARRL.**

In late 2007 the FCC invited comments on RM-11392, a proposal asking the FCC to limit the maximum bandwidth of data transmissions to 1.5 kHz on all HF bands except 10 meters. In addition to not filing any comments itself, the ARRL apparently never even mentioned the existence of this particular petition on the ARRL Web site. There is no excuse for the ARRL not to inform the ham community of the existence of such petitions. In addition, if the ARRL chooses not to comment officially to the FCC, the League should at least discuss within the ham community the various advantages and disadvantages of any submitted petitions. The ARRL once again showed a serious lack of leadership in its failure to do anything regarding RM-11392.

**6. The ARRL should increase its support of the National Traffic System and should quickly move on the recommendations of the National Emergency Response Planning Committee.**

The current national leadership undervalues the training opportunities in emergency communications offered by the League's own National Traffic System (including NTSD, the digital "arm" of NTS) in such fundamental skills as formal message handling and operating in directed nets. The ARRL Board should support the use of all appropriate modes and networks in providing backup communications to the public during emergencies. In addition, since Hurricane Katrina there has been little apparent progress by the ARRL regarding the recommendations of its own National Emergency Response Planning Committee (NERPC). For example, little or no action appears to have been taken by the ARRL Board so far on such issues as credentialing, establishing a national emcomm database of responders, or identifying Major Disaster Emergency Coordinators (MDECs).

I want the ARRL to once again be a membership organization that we all can be proud of, newcomers and old timers alike. If elected, I will work diligently to have the Board adopt the changes described above. Thank you for your support.

73,

Mickey Cox K5MC

## February VE Test Results

Here are the results from the February 7 test session.

Archibald G Hill KE5RPM upgraded to General.

Kristen Orson from Jeanerette passed the Technician and is now KE5SUH.

Ryan Raney from Baton Rouge passed the Technician and is now KE5SUI.

James L. Bearde from Church Point passed the Technician and is now KE5SUJ.

Two young ladies were unsuccessful.

The VE's were:

Danny Griffith K5ARH

Charlie Morrison KI5XP

Roland Guidry NA5Q

Greg Dolan K5LFT

In appreciation of the Lafayette Salvation Army letting us use their Thrift Store property for our Mardi Gras Event and letting us use their copy machine for our LARC Newsletter, I would like to mention the following in their behalf.



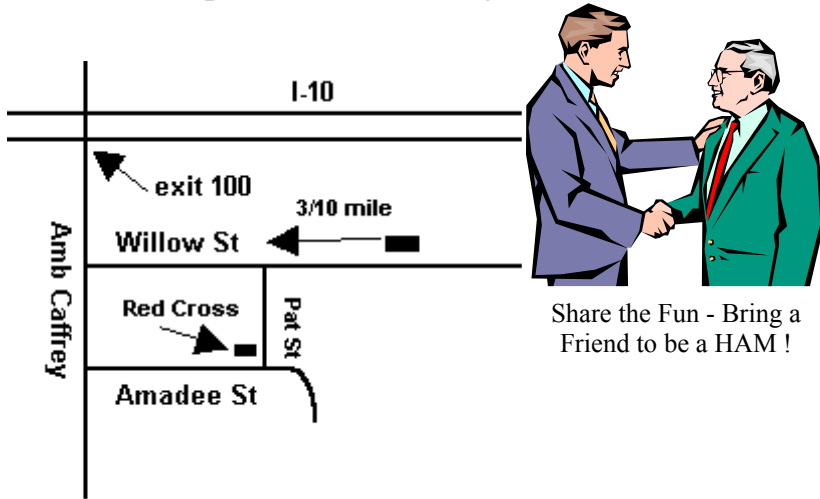
DOING  
THE MOST  
GOOD™

The Salvation Army truck is back on the road again due to a shortage of qualified drivers. They will pick up appliances, furniture, clothing, and other items at your residence or business, providing they are in acceptable condition.

Call the office at (337)234-1830 between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM Tuesday thru Friday to schedule a pick-up. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Donations are tax-deductible.

**Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 51174**  
**Lafayette, LA 70505-1174**

Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org>



**AARA GENERAL MEETING**  
**Thursday March 6, 2008—7:00 PM**  
**Red Cross Building, 101 N. Pat St., Scott, LA**

COMPLEMENTARY  
ISSUE

**Pay your dues if not so done already!**

## **Ham & Potato Casserole**

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 5 cups potatoes, diced   | 1/2 chopped onion                 |
| 1 large, already cooked ham steak about<br>1 1/2 to 2 lbs, diced | 1/4 cup chopped green bell pepper |
| 1 can cream of mushroom soup                                     | 1/2 teaspoon salt                 |
| 1/4 cup milk   | 1 dash pepper                     |
| 2 Tbs. butter or margarine                                       | cheese                            |

### **Directions:**

Mix all ingredients together and bake one hour at 350 degrees. Uncover and layer with cheese. Bake uncovered for 45 minutes or until brown.

Note: The ham steak is the single slice in the cellophane wrap in the breakfast & lunch meat department at the market.

### **Submitted by:**

John and Maureena Martin KA5BSE & KB5SMX.

### **Submit your favorite recipes to:**

Herman KN5GRK at:  
[kn5grk@bellsouth.net](mailto:kn5grk@bellsouth.net)



## **FCC LICENSE INFO SERVICE**

The FCC toll-free (WATS) number for Amateur Radio license inquiries - including inquiries about vanity and new call signs. The number, 888-225-5322, will connect callers to the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau. Amateurs having ULS problems or questions should contact the FCC's ULS Technical Support staff at 202-414-1250 or [ulscmm@fcc.gov](mailto:ulscmm@fcc.gov). Web site:

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

New callsign information can also be obtained from the ARRL/VEC at 860-594-3000.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec>

The mailing address to the FCC is: Federal Communications Commission, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg PA 17325-7245